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24. — *The American Biographical Dictionary: comprising an Account of the Lives, Characters, and Writings of the most Eminent Persons deceased in North America, from its first Settlement.* By WILLIAM ALLEN, D. D., late President of Bowdoin College. Third Edition. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1857. 8vo. pp. 905.

PROBABLY no other country has been so fruitful as ours in "eminent persons." Dr. Allen gives us under this category no less than six thousand seven hundred and seventy-five. Of these very many doubtless went down to their graves with hardly a thought that their names would live after them. But we are thankful for the preservation of the brief life-record of even our "village Hampdens," and care not how heavy a burden Fame can be made to bear; while in this Dictionary we miss none who were fairly entitled to a place in its pages. Dr. Allen's painstaking fidelity cannot be praised to excess. The proportions of his work, too, are admirably preserved. His articles are never either redundantly long or unrighteously brief. As to the greatest names, they satisfy without wearying the reader; of less conspicuous personages they narrate all that we need to know. The only exception to be made to a work otherwise excellent is, that the author assumes as his stand-point, not that of the average public for which he writes, but that of his own peculiar opinions, predilections, and prejudices, and that he often insinuates argument — sometimes the *argumentum ad invidiam* — where he should confine himself to the statement of facts. In fine, the breadth and catholicism of his sympathy and appreciation seem to be in inverse proportion to the extent and fulness of his knowledge.

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25. — *Sermons, by REV. EPHRAIM PEABODY, D. D., Minister of King's Chapel. With a Memoir.* Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. xliv. and 388.

THERE are many symmetrically, but feebly developed characters, which it is almost impossible to portray from the entire lack of salient points. Dr. Peabody was one of the few men whose mental and moral natures elude description from their symmetrical, yet full and strong development. Had he manifested his share of the usual faults and weaknesses of humanity, the noble and beautiful traits thrown out into bold relief by the contrast would have won for him, not indeed a more tender and loving regard from those who knew him, but a larger measure of that complex and questionable tribute of the public which bears